



EQUAL JUSTICE FOR JUVENILES CONFERENCE

Meeting. On June 15, 2016, the Department of Human Rights (DHR) and the State Court Administration co-sponsored an event titled, "Equal Justice for Juveniles: Developing Action Plans to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Juvenile Justice," at Adventureland Inn in Altoona, Iowa. Attendees included several criminal justice system and community school district representatives from nine Iowa communities (Sioux City, Fort Dodge, Council Bluffs, Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, Dubuque, Davenport, Waterloo, and Des Moines).

Background. The event is a part of the five-year strategic plan developed by the Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP) to reduce disproportionate minority contact in Iowa's juvenile justice system. The goal of the event is to help juvenile justice leaders create or update a clear, specific, workable plan to address minority over-representation in the juvenile justice system in their local community.

Event Speakers. Speakers featured at the event included:

- The Honorable Mark Cady, Chief Justice of the Iowa Supreme Court.
- James Bell, Founder and Executive Director of the Burns Institute for Juvenile Justice Fairness and Equity.
 - Bell presented on the over-representation of youth of color in the delinquency system and the rising costs of the criminal justice system.
 - The PowerPoint document from Bell's presentation is available on the DHR [website](#).
- Iowa participants in the Georgetown Project at the Georgetown University Center for Juvenile Justice Reform presented a panel discussion on Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC).
- Betsy Penisten, CJJP.
 - Penisten gave a report on the findings from community discussions with youth of color.
- David Boyd, Iowa State Court Administrator.

Community Breakout Sessions. Representatives from each community met to discuss and develop a clear, workable plan to address minority over-representation in the juvenile justice system. At the end of the event, each community reported on the plans and actions steps they developed during the breakout sessions.

Additional information. Further information and materials from the event may be found on the DHR [website](#).

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